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Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS



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RAISINS (Page 246)

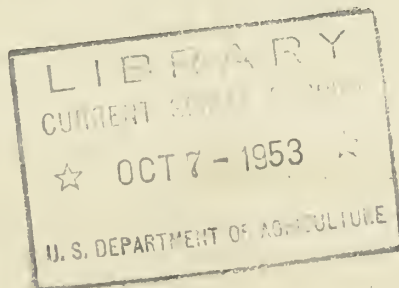
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FOR RELEASE

MONDAY

OCTOBER 5, 1953



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

L A T E N E W S

The Government of India has announced an export quota of 175,000 Indian bales (143,000 bales of 500 pounds gross) of short-staple cotton for export during the year beginning September 1, 1953. The total includes 75,000 bales (61,000) of Bengals, 50,000 (41,000) of C.P. I and II, and 50,000 (41,000) Oomra not exceeding 11/16-inch staple. Assam Comillas and Coconadas will be licensed freely. Supplemental quotas are usually announced later in the year after the size of the current crop can be determined more accurately.

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Exports of cotton from the United States in July amounted to 121,000 bales of 500 pounds (115,000 running bales) making a 1952-53 total of 3,181,000 bales (3,048,000 running bales) compared with 5,711,000 bales (5,519,000 running bales) in 1951-52. A more complete trade report will appear in Foreign Crops and Markets of October 12, 1953.

FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

Published weekly to inform producers, processors, distributors and consumers of farm products of current developments abroad in the crop and livestock industries, foreign trends in prices and consumption of farm products, and world agricultural trade. Circulation of this periodical is free to persons in the U.S. needing the information it contains in farming, business and professional operations.

Foreign Crops and Markets is distributed only upon a request basis. Should you find you have no need for this publication, please tear off the addressograph imprint with your name and address on the enclosing envelope, pencil "drop" upon it, and send it to the Foreign Agricultural Service, Room 5922, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

WORLD 1953 RAISIN PACK LARGER THAN IN 1952 1/

The 1953 raisin pack in the 9 leading commercial producing countries is estimated at 544,700 short tons compared with 540,500 tons (revised) in 1952 and 461,200 tons (revised) in 1951. This preliminary estimate exceeds the 10-year (1941-50) average of 467,900 tons by 16 percent and the 5-year (1946-50) average of 440,900 tons by 24 percent.

The official United States estimate is unavailable; however, the trade estimates a production of 246,000 tons, natural condition, compared with the 290,000 tons (revised) for 1952. Sharp increases in raisin production are indicated for Australia, Iran, Turkey and the Union of South Africa, while for Greece a crop equaling the production of 1952 is anticipated.

Weather and other growing conditions ranged from good to ideal in the areas of increased raisin production during the current season. Greek production was limited to last year's level by fungus damage resulting from excessive rainfall and a late harvest is expected.

At the close of the 1952-53 marketing season it was estimated that carry-over stocks from the 1952 pack totaled 1,700 short tons in Turkey and 2,200 tons in Iran. The Union of South Africa reports relatively large stocks of Thompson Seedless compared with stocks of the previous season and Australian figures indicate that some carry-over may be available from the past season. Greece reports no stocks on hand at the end of the 1952-53 season.

Preliminary and incomplete data on exports indicate that shipments of raisins may have exceeded 290,000 short tons during 1952-53, compared with 245,200 tons during the season 1951-52 (excluding Argentina, Chile and Spain). Of the estimated 1952-53 shipments, the United States exported more than 97,100 tons, Turkey, Greece and Iran combined may have exported more than 117,800 tons, and the British Commonwealth areas report almost 75,000 tons shipped. The total estimated shipments for 1952-53 represent about 54 percent of the 1952 pack or slightly more percentage-wise than the 53 percent of a year earlier.

During 1952-53 the United Kingdom continued as the chief purchaser of United States, Australian and South African raisins. Western Germany purchased heavily in the Greek, Turkish and Iranian markets. Canada was second to the United Kingdom in the United States and British Commonwealth markets, receiving more than 8,700 tons from the United States and about one-third of the exports of Australia. The Netherlands was the third largest buyer of United States raisins, followed by Sweden, Norway, West Germany and Japan. All Western European countries combined purchased 77,893 tons in the United States compared with 63,364 tons a year earlier. United States exports to non-European areas other than Canada totaled 10,470 tons compared with 11,539 tons a year earlier.

1/ A more extensive statement soon will be published as a Foreign Agriculture Circular by the Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

RAISINS: Estimated world commercial production, 1952 with comparisons
(Rounded to nearest 100 short tons)

Year	Australia					
	Argentina	Lexias	Sultanas	Chile	Greece	Iran
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
Average:						
1941-50	5,800	8,300	57,000	1,400	23,200	34,400
1946-50	5,700	5,600	50,300	1,000	29,200	35,800
Annual:						
1948	7,200	5,600	64,700	700	25,300	49,500
1949	6,300	5,800	38,600	900	34,100	22,000
1950	5,500	2,700	46,300	1,300	39,400	49,500
1951	5,000	6,500	38,100	900	29,200	54,500
1952 2/	5,000	6,800	1/58,700	800	1/38,500	1/49,500
1953 2/	3/5,000	11,900	78,800	3/800	38,500	55,000

Year	Union of South Africa					
	Spain	Turkey (Smyrna)	Foreign total	United States	World total	
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
Average:						
1941-50	8,900	62,200	10,700	211,900	256,000	467,900
1946-50	8,900	65,600	9,700	211,800	229,100	440,900
Annual:						
1948	6,900	77,000	9,400	246,300	231,500	477,800
1949	9,400	82,500	8,600	208,200	259,000	467,200
1950	10,700	74,800	8,800	239,000	156,000	395,000
1951	12,300	63,800	8,900	219,200	1/242,000	1/461,200
1952 2/	10,800	1/71,500	8,900	1/250,500	1/290,000	1/540,500
1953 2/	3/11,000	88,000	9,700	298,700	4/246,000	544,700

1/Revised. 2/Preliminary. 3/Office estimate. 4/Trade estimate, not official.

CURRENTS: Estimated world commercial production, 1952 with comparisons
(Rounded to nearest 100 short tons)

Year	Australia			
	Greece	South Africa	Total	
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
Average:				
1941-50	19,600	71,000	1,000	91,600
1946-50	16,300	82,400	1,100	99,800
Annual:				
1948	20,100	77,000	1,100	98,200
1949	18,800	99,500	1,000	119,300
1950	14,300	88,700	1,000	104,000
1951	17,200	88,000	1,000	106,200
1952 2/	1/12,300	1/85,800	800	1/98,900
1953 2/	19,000	88,000	1,100	108,100

1/Revised. 2/Preliminary.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, results of office research, trade and other information.

A number of factors, other than the size of the crop, are important in the international raisin trade picture overseas in the 1953-54 season. Among these factors, the announcement of decontrol of imports into the United Kingdom seemed to take precedence during September. While the British move to decontrol imports will not be effective prior to December 1, 1953 the trade has assumed a somewhat bearish outlook in that area. The United Kingdom is estimated by trade sources to hold in stock up to 56,000 tons of currants and Sultanas and large additional supplies are expected from Greece and Turkey in the near future. There are some indications that the above stock figure may be on the high side.

A second factor affecting the price of dried fruits has been the devaluation of the Greek drachma to one-half its previous quotation. This move in April 1953 enabled Greek exporters to lower the prices of their commodities and compete more effectively with others in the world markets. A third important factor is the Turkish move to subsidize exports by 15 percent and prices for Turkish Sultanas have fallen to the extent of the subsidies. Thus exporters in that area have an added opportunity to move their commodities quickly into trade channels.

With the second largest world crop on record moving into trade channels, competition among sellers may intensify this year, with prices resulting in benefits to the buyer rather than to the seller during 1953-54.

CURRENTS

The 1953 preliminary estimate of currant production in Australia, Greece and the Union of South Africa is 108,100 short tons compared with 98,900 tons (revised) in 1952 and 106,200 tons in 1951. This estimate exceeds the 10-year (1941-50) average of 91,600 tons by 18 percent and the 5-year (1946-50) average of 99,800 tons by 8 percent and is the largest pack for these countries since 1949. The Australian pack was estimated at 19,000 tons compared with 12,300 tons (revised) last year, Greece reports 88,000 tons compared with 85,800 tons (revised) in 1952, while the Union of South Africa reports a pack of 1,100 tons compared with 800 tons in 1952. --By Francis G. Thomason, based in part upon U.S. Foreign Service reports.

TUNISIA EXPECTS LARGE OLIVE OIL OUTPUT

Tunisia should produce 77,000 short tons of edible olive oil during the 1953-54 season, according to an official forecast of the Ministry of Agriculture. The American Consulate General, Tunis, reports that trade sources consider 77,000 tons at the lower end of the range, with as much as 88,000 tons in prospect. Accordingly, the risk of any substantial downward revision of the official forecast would appear to be small. Production of inedible olive oil should yield an additional 11,000 tons. Final estimates for last season, recently made available, show 38,600 tons of edible olive oil and 4,400 tons of olive foots oil.

The weather was unusually dry in central and southern Tunisia until late March 1953, and prospects of a good crop of olives were considered slender. Then followed a period of above-average rainfall extending into the summer which brought about a remarkable recovery. Conditions have continued favorable to date. Northern Tunisia, with exceptional rains throughout the season and generally favorable weather conditions, is expected to make a relatively high contribution to the total oil yield, estimated at 27 percent by trade sources.

Domestic requirements of some 2,750 tons of olive oil monthly appear to be covered until the new harvest gets underway in November. Prices have been well above European levels with few export transactions. Export statistics for January-May 1953 show 3,115 tons of edible oil and about 550 tons of olive oil foots. During 1952, exports totaled 18,082 tons and 2,891 tons, respectively.

The speculative nature of present market activity is revealed by recent quotations. Thus, the lampante grade of oil (acidity basis 3 percent, maximum 5) was quoted at Sfax on September 17, 1953 at 204-205 francs per kilogram (26.4-26.6 cents per pound), for immediate delivery. On the same date the same oil was offered for December delivery at 160 francs (20.7 cents), payable immediately. Early in September, buyers in Italy were offering 183 francs (23.7 cents), c.i.f. for this grade of Tunisian oil (\$520-\$525 per metric ton), the equivalent of about 150 francs per kilogram (19.4 cents), f.o.b. Tunisian port of shipment, for November-December delivery.

Last season, lampante oil opened at 202-203 francs (26.2-26.3 cents) on October 9, 1952, fell to 182-184 (23.6-23.8 cents) on November 18 and subsequently rose steadily to 226 francs (29.3 cents) in February 1953.

The prospects of a good yield are having stimulating effects in the centers of production, more particularly the regions of Sfax and Sousse, and will ultimately have a generally beneficial effect on the economy of the entire country.

FRENCH DECREE ON ALCOHOL AND SUGAR

France's new economic regime for alcohol and sugar was inaugurated in a decree of August 9, 1953 which sets a quota for alcohol made from sugar beet and molasses at 74 million gallons. Under this quota, the total produced by distilleries not attached to sugar factories must not exceed 48.9 million gallons, and that of distilleries attached to sugar factories must not exceed 11.9 million gallons. The quota for molasses alcohol is placed at 13.2 million gallons.

The new decree supersedes that of March 11, 1953 and provides for a gradual reduction in alcohol production which, over a period of 6 or 7 years, will lower annual supplies from production to the level of requirements. At the same time, the French Government will encourage the increased production of sugar which is less costly to produce than alcohol.

The previous decree of March 11th had set sugar beet prices according to a cost-of-production formula if production did not exceed 13,228,000 short tons. The latest decree makes the above price applicable to 13,228,000 tons regardless of the size of the crop. The eventual subsidy for disposing of sugar produced from the part of the beet crop exceeding 13,228,000 tons (allowance being made for beets used in alcohol production) will be borne by the farmers and sugar factories on a basis to be negotiated. Actual beet production this year is expected to reach 13,641,000 short tons.

The general reaction to the decree has been that it is a rather inadequate reform of the existing regime. While a gradual reduction in alcohol production is provided, there will still be surplus production in 1957-58 and it probably will be necessary to deal with an annual average deficit of the Alcohol Services estimated at 18 billion francs.

At present, French alcohol requirements are about 66 million gallons annually. Distillation of surplus fruits, wines and molasses normally provides about 46.2 million gallons so that only 19.8 million gallons must be provided by sugar beets. Further, it is estimated that the Government will hold in stock more than 79 million gallons by the end of the present year and the total volume of surpluses that it must market by "abnormal" means before balanced production is achieved, is estimated at almost 238 million gallons. No immediate solution to the disposal of these future supplies has been suggested by the French Government although it is felt by others that sales of alcohol to foreign countries at a considerable loss would form "the least bad" way out.

JAPAN PLANS LARGER RICE IMPORTS

Japan expects to increase its imports of rice in coming months as a result of the expected poor domestic rice harvest this fall. The plan drawn up last spring for imports of 900,000 metric tons (1,984 million pounds) of milled rice during the Japanese 1953 fiscal year (April 1953-March 1954) is now being revised. That program had been prepared in anticipation of a normal harvest this fall, and was made possible by a good carry-over from the bumper 1952 crop. Indications are that imports will be increased by 100,000 to 150,000 tons (220 to 330 million pounds) in an effort to avert a shortage of rice for the consumer ration program during the summer of 1954.

The official September 1 forecast of rice production was 9,272,000 metric tons of brown rice (25,400 million pounds of rough rice), down 650,000 tons (1,784 million pounds) from 1952. Growing conditions since that forecast was made have worsened because of continued cool, wet weather, and the preliminary estimate scheduled for late September is expected to show a further decline.

The poor 1953 crop will be reflected in the Government's rice collections from farmers. From the 1952 crop 4,200,000 tons were collected, well above the assigned compulsory quota of 3,485,000 tons. Generous bonuses for over-quota deliveries helped to achieve this result. Prices will be higher this year giving farmers strong incentives to deliver, but collections cannot be expected to approach the 1952 level despite intensive Government efforts.

The collection quota from the 1953 crop is now under consideration, with indications that the compulsory quota will not exceed 3,150,000 metric tons. About 5,100,000 tons of brown rice will be required during the next year for the consumer ration and industrial uses. The carry-over stock on April 1 (beginning of the fiscal year) was 2,384,000 tons of brown rice.

Imports of wheat above the previously planned fiscal year level of 1,550,000 tons probably will also be necessary to help offset the decrease in rice supplies. The entire food import program is under review by the Government.

JAPAN TO INCREASE PRODUCTION OF SYNTHETIC RICE

A synthetic rice, composed of various combinations of wheat flour, potato starch, and natural rice in powdered form, has been developed in Japan. It is intended as an "extender," to be mixed with rice in cooking, and not to be eaten alone. Commercial production has begun on a small scale and is expanding.

Consumer demand for the small amount produced so far has been good despite a relatively high price. The ultimate consumption level will depend on the degree of consumer acceptance as the product is given critical home trial, and on the extent to which the price can be lowered through expected mass production, and probably through Government subsidies.

The potential production capacity of synthetic rice is virtually unlimited as the process is simple and the materials required are plentiful. Food imports will not be affected by the new product for the next year at least. The eventual effect, if the product is successful, may be a reduction in imports of barley and increase in imports of wheat, possibly followed by reduced rice imports.

Government food officials plan soon to prescribe certain standards for the synthetic rice. Manufacturers will be permitted to determine their own composition within those specifications. A common mixture now is 70 percent wheat flour, 20 percent potato starch, and 10 percent powdered rice; some is made without any starch - 70 percent flour and 30 percent rice. Food officials believe that a mixture of about 50 percent starch, 40 percent flour, and 10 percent rice will ultimately prevail.

(Continued on Page 258)

ECUADOR EXPORTS LESS
RICE THAN IN 1952

Rice exports authorized from Ecuador's 1953 crop as of the second week of September stood at 78,700,000 pounds of milled rice, a substantially smaller volume than the 126 million pounds exported in calendar year 1952. Production in 1953 will not be so large as early prospects indicated because of rains and floods that reduced the main harvest (May-August). Although more rice may be available for export than is now authorized, the exportable surplus is not expected to approach exports in 1952.

ECUADOR: Rice exports by country of destination,
January-July, 1953, with comparisons

Country of destination	Average:					January July 1953
	1937- 1941	1949	1950	1951	1952	
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
Japan	0	0	0	0	58	0
Ceylon	0	0	0	0	22	0
Peru	13	0	80	0	1/	0
Venezuela	6	14	29	4	0	0
Colombia	4	1/	5	1/	0	0
Panama	2	0	2	4	5	0
Jamaica	0	3	11	0	6	0
Bolivia	0	2	2	0	1	3
Philippines	0	41	0	0	0	0
India	0	0	0	0	20	0
Other countries	6	8	11	3	14	1/
Total	31	68	140	11	126	3

1/ Less than 500 pounds.

Compiled from official sources.

Ecuador was a net importer of rice during the first 7 months of 1953. Because of a scarcity in rice that developed in the early months of the year, the country imported 8,100,000 pounds in March; 2,600,000 pounds from Colombia, and in April; 5,500,000 pounds from Peru. Rice was not exported until July when the new crop began to be marketed. Following the authorization on July 7 to export 51 million pounds of rice, Ecuador in that month exported 3,500,000 pounds, primarily to Bolivia.

Rice prices to producers, which were at a peak level during the rice shortage in early 1953, dropped sharply as the new crop was marketed. This decline reportedly reflected concern on the part of exporters as to whether rice from this year's crop can be exported at an "economic" price. Exporters claim that only with the aid of a Government subsidy such as those in 1949, 1950, and 1952 can appreciable rice exports be made.

ECUADOR: Monthly average prices paid to producers
for rough rice equivalent to 1 quintal of milled 1/₂,
excluding cost of milling

Month	1951	1952	1953
	Sucres : Dollars	Sucres : Dollars	Sucres : Dollars
March.....	100: 6.67:	105: 7.00:	135: 9.00
April.....	103: 6.87:	105: 7.00:	118: 7.87
May.....	95: 6.33:	110: 7.33:	110: 7.33
June.....	102: 6.80:	112: 7.47:	100: 6.67
July.....	104: 6.93:	113: 7.53:	87: 5.80
August.....	102: 6.80:	114: 7.60:	95: 6.33
September.....	102: 6.80:	117: 7.80:	- : -
October.....	94: 6.27:	119: 7.93:	- : -
November.....	96: 6.40:	120: 8.00:	- : -
December.....	: :	: :	: :

1/₂ Some 175 Spanish pounds (of 1.014 pounds) of Canilla type, or 165 Spanish pounds of Fortuna type, rough rice equal 1 quintal (101.412 pounds) of milled rice.

Source: Rice mills.

EUROPEAN RICE PRODUCTION INCREASES SLIGHTLY

The combined production of Europe's 1953 rice crops is expected to be slightly larger than in the preceding year. Larger crops are being harvested only in Italy and Spain, the 2 countries of largest outturn. Increased production there is being partly offset by smaller harvests in Portugal, France, and Greece.

RICE (rough): Production in specified
countries of Europe, averages 1935-39
and 1945-49, and annual 1950-53

Country	Average	1950	1951	1952	1953
	1935- : 1945- : 1939 : 1949 :	1950	1951	1952	1953
	Million : Million : pounds : pounds :	Million : Million : pounds : pounds :	Million : Million : pounds : pounds :	Million : Million : pounds : pounds :	Million : Million : pounds : pounds :
France.....	1.4: 18.1:	104.7:	154.3:	187.4:	160.0
Greece.....	9.2: 19.5:	70.5:	123.5:	165.3:	155.0
Italy.....	1,692.9:1,328.9:	1,631.4:	1,850.0:	2,100.0:	2,150.0
Portugal.....	152.9: 159.7:	266.8:	311.5:	289.0:	250.0
Spain.....	477.0: 562.2:	660.0:	650.0:	725.0:	785.0
Total 2/.....	2,333.4:2,088.4:	2,733.4:	3,089.3:	3,466.7:	3,500.0

1/₂ Preliminary. 2/₂ Of 5 countries listed.

Compiled from official statistics and estimates of Foreign Agricultural Service.

Italy planted a large acreage in rice again this year, and weather so far has been favorable for the harvesting of an excellent crop. Reports are that production will exceed that of last year. Rice crop prospects of Spain also are excellent (see Foreign Crops and Markets, August 10, 1953). Reportedly a surplus of 90,000 metric tons (200 million pounds) of milled rice will be available for export, all of which exporters anticipate selling for dollars.

Portugal's rice crop was affected by drought (for discussion, see Foreign Crops and Markets, September 28, 1953). Though the rice acreage of France has been reported to be about the same as in 1952, unfavorable weather reduced the per acre yields below those of a year ago. Planting of all the intended rice acreage of Greece was prevented by a late spring. Rice conditions of the planted area as of September 1 were excellent, though there were reports of a limitation in water for irrigation. Harvesting started in mid-September.

EXPORT QUOTA OF IRANIAN RICE TO SOVIET UNION

The total quantity of rice to be exported from Iran to the Soviet Union during the year 1953-54 (April-March) is established at 25,000 metric tons (55 million pounds) in 1953 trade negotiations between the 2 countries. In a supplementary quota-list of goods to be exchanged between Iran and the Soviet Union signed on September 3, rice exports from Iran to the Soviet Union of 10,000 metric tons (22 million pounds) were provided. This was in addition to the 15,000 tons (33 million pounds) to be exported in accordance with a quota-list of a June 10 trade agreement between Iran and the Soviet Union.

U.S. TOBACCO EXPORTS DURING JULY, 1953

United States exports of unmanufactured tobacco during July 1953 totaled 24,648 thousand pounds and were valued at \$14.1 million. This is a 6 percent decline in quantity compared to July 1952, while declared value is \$2.2 million less than the previous year.

The decrease in dollar value and quantity is due in large measure to takings by Western Germany, which dropped by one-half in July 1953 compared to the same month in 1952. In addition, shipments of Dark-fired Kentucky-Tennessee leaf were only 52 percent of July 1952; the decrease here is almost entirely accounted for by smaller shipments to the Netherlands. Takings by French Indochina accounted for total exports of Cigar Filler in July 1953.

Exports of United States unmanufactured tobacco,
July 1953, with comparisons

(Export weight)

Kinds	July 1953	July 1952
	<u>1,000 pounds</u>	<u>1,000 pounds</u>
Flue-cured	18,954	20,157
Burley	2,802	3,130
Dark-fired Ky.-Tenn.	528	1,012
Dark-fired Va.	151	243
Sun-cured	0	0
Maryland	849	569
Green River	37	8
One-sucker	73	51
Cigar wrapper	316	311
Cigar binder	145	152
Cigar filler	126	0
Other	667	454
Total	24,648	26,087
Declared value, million dollars	14.1	16.3

Compiled by the Foreign Agricultural Service from records of the Bureau of the Census.

Exports of United States tobacco products,
July 1953, with comparisons

Class of Products	July 1953	July 1952
Cigars & Cheroots (1,000 pieces)	588	142
Cigarettes (1,000 pieces)	1,320,962	1,328,595
Chewing tobacco & snuff (pounds)	110,755	65,186
Smoking tobacco in packages (pounds)	42,215	40,470
Smoking tobacco in bulk (pounds)	520,521	113,626

CHINESE SOYBEAN SHIPMENTS THROUGH
SUEZ CANAL AT HIGH LEVEL

The northbound movement of Chinese soybeans through the Suez Canal during January-June 1953 totaled some 309,700 short tons (10,323,000 bushels), an increase of more than one-half from the volume which passed through the Canal in the corresponding period of 1952, according to information available to the Foreign Agricultural Service. Should shipments in the second half of 1953 approximate those of the previous 6 months, it would result in the largest volume to transit the Canal in postwar years, and around half the average movement in 1933-37. It is to be noted, however, that the passage of soybeans through this waterway was down sharply in the second 6 months of both 1951 and 1952.

In calendar year 1952, total northbound shipments of soybeans through the Canal were around 219,360 tons, or 7,312,000 bushels. Of this quantity, 166,475 tons consisted of bulk shipments while the remainder apparently was carried by general cargo vessels. In addition to soybeans, as such, 12,169 tons of soybean oil (equivalent to 81,129 tons or 2,704,310 bushels of beans) passed through the Canal last year.

NIGERIA ANNOUNCES PEANUT
PRICE TO PRODUCERS

The Nigerian Groundnut Marketing Board has announced that the producers' price for Nigerian peanuts during the 1953-54 season will be £36 per long ton (\$90 per short ton), bulk ex-scale, reports the American Consulate General, Lagos. This price is the same as was paid by the Board during the 1951-52 and 1952-53 seasons.

The Board stated that the following factors were considered in its decision: (1) Indications were that the 1953-54 season would be a good one, (2) there is a downward trend in the prices of imported goods and local food crops, (3) because of inadequate rail facilities, the sales of this crop would, in fact, be spread over 2 years time, (4) a drop in the world price of peanuts is expected during the next 2 years, and (5) because of this expected drop and the long storage necessary, the Board expects it may have to use part of its reserve funds to maintain the £36 price.

It should be noted that the buying price would be reduced £1 per ton (\$2.50 per short ton) by the Produce Sales Tax.

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CORRECTION: In item, "U.S. Soybean Exports Up Sharply; Soybean Oil Exports Down" in Foreign Crops and Markets of August 24, 1953, the first 2 sentences of paragraph 3 should have read as follows: "Europe continued to be the major market for soybean oil with Germany the principal buyer. That country took 26.5 million pounds in contrast to only 9.5 million in the same months of the previous year." In the table on page 128 the figures for France in the last 2 columns should have been 591 and 59, respectively, and the figures for Western Germany in the last 2 columns should have been 26,483 and 3,872, respectively.

NORWAY MAKES PLANS FOR ANTARCTIC WHALING

Norway will have 9 of the 18 expeditions that will engage in pelagic whaling when the Antarctic season opens on January 2, 1954, according to George J. Dietz, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Oslo. In addition, probably one shore station will operate. The prospect of better prices for whale oil probably is the major reason for greater participation again by the Norwegians. In the 1953 season there were but 16 expeditions of which 7 were Norwegian. Nineteen expeditions operated in 1952, of which 10 were from Norway.

An agreement, signed by all companies except the single Soviet firm, has been made to reduce the number of whale catchers from 230 in 1953 to 210 in 1954. Half of these--or 105--will be Norwegian-owned. This reduction in whale catchers is not likely to effect any reduction in total output of whale oil, tending only to prolong the season. However, it may contribute to more efficient operations.

Prospects for the whale oil market have reportedly improved somewhat. The average price obtained last season was £71.5 per metric ton (\$184 per short ton). The market in August was firm and prices slightly higher have been indicated recently. The whale oil prices have a tendency to follow the copra prices, and the latest copra quotation in London was reported at £82 per metric ton (\$208) compared with £62 (\$157) a year earlier.

The whaling companies in Norway have agreed again to market through a Sales Committee their whale and sperm oils from the 1953-54 whale catch in the Antarctic. The Committee, already named, consists of 7 members elected by the various whaling companies.

GRAIN TRADE NOTES

Spain's 1953-54 Wheat Import Requirements: Spain will have to import at least 35,000,000 bushels of wheat during 1953-54 in order to meet consumption needs, unless rationing is enforced. According to the Minister of Commerce, about 28,000,000 bushels have already been contracted for at a cost of \$60,000,000. The 1953 wheat crop in Spain is estimated at 120,000,000 bushels, 50,000,000 bushels less than the 1952 harvest of 170 million bushels.

French-Soviet Trade Agreement for Corn: Under terms of a trade agreement with Russia, signed July, 15, 1953, France was assured of 65,000 metric tons of corn from the 1953 Soviet crop. Total French imports of corn during 1953-54 are expected to be less than the 211,000 tons imported from all countries during 1952-53. The bulk of the requirements will probably be obtained from Argentina and other non-dollar suppliers.

COLOMBIA'S WHEAT IMPORT NEEDS BEFORE END OF 1953: Trade sources recently reported that Colombia will have to import about 20,000 metric tons of wheat before the end of 1953. The likelihood is that nearly all of it will be purchased from Canada. Permits have already been issued for 7,000 tons of No. 1 Manitoba Northern, and negotiations are under way for additional purchases from Canada. Colombia is not a member of the International Wheat Agreement.

PHILIPPINES ISSUE NEW FLOUR DISTRIBUTION RULES: The Manager of the Price Stabilization Corporation of the Philippines has issued regulations governing the allocation and distribution of new and unknown brands of flour. Single copies of the regulations, which are intended to prevent the mixing of new and unknown brands with the better known brands of flour, are available from the Grain Division, Foreign Agricultural Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

FRENCH FLOUR EXTRACTION RATE REDUCED: The flour extraction rate in France was reduced on September 1, the exact level of the new rate depending on the specific weight (in kilograms per hectoliter) of the grain. Under the regulations in force prior to September 1, wheat was milled at about 79 percent extraction, since specific weight of the 1952 crop averaged 78 kilograms per hectoliter. If the specific weight of the new crop equals that of 1952, the new extraction rate will be about 76 percent. If the new crop is somewhat lighter, it may be as low as 74 or 75 percent. This measure was advocated by wheat growers as a means of (1) increasing wheat consumption and thus reducing the surplus, (2) increasing the supply of bran for feeding, and (3) producing whiter bread.

DENMARK'S 1953-54 GRAIN EXPORT CONTRACTS: Up until early in September 1953, Denmark had already contracted to export about 65,000 metric tons of wheat during 1953-54. Total wheat exports in 1952-53 amounted to only 15,000 tons. Included among the countries buying this wheat are West Germany, Italy, Israel, England, and Norway. The Netherlands and Belgium have contracted to buy a total of about 17,000 tons of rye. Contracts for the export of barley total about 130,000 tons, which is slightly more than half the large barley exports in 1952-53. The principal barley purchaser to date has been Belgium. While Italy and Switzerland have agreed to buy Danish barley, no contracts have been made as yet. Germany is also expected to purchase Danish barley this year but not as much as last season.

SYNTHETIC RICE--(Continued from Page 251)

These developments are entirely problematical. Synthetic rice has not yet proved that it can break the traditional eating habits of the Japanese, and its potentialities should not be over-emphasized. (Note: a more extensive statement regarding synthetic rice soon will be published as a Foreign Agriculture Circular by the Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C.)

